

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-07-24 through 2016-07-30



China

Pastor Zhong Shuguang (husband of Lü Yingli; **UPDATE**: evaded detention by the police because he was travelling during their raid on his home, the raid occurred after he posted an online message that Christians had no religious freedom)

Lü Yingli (wife of Pastor Zhong Shuguang, detained by police during a raid on their home, released the next day)

Dates: July 7-8, 2016

Location: Cele county, Xinjiang province

Pastor Lou Yuanqi (**UPDATE**: family confined to their home by police)

Date reported: July 26, 2016

Location: Qingshuihe, Huocheng county, Ili region, Xinjiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/07/persecution-surges-as-xinjiang.html>

Li Guisheng (attorney; **UPDATE**: said "I cannot understand why they have done this... Worshipping God has nothing to do with the G20 summit" after the government announced that churches would be banned from meeting during the upcoming summit in September 2016)

Date reported: July 25, 2016

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2016/07/25/the-g20-summit-wont-be-safe-in-china-unless-churches-are-silenced-authorities-say/>

Event: Thirty Christians were detained, four held more than one day

Jiang Jianping (church leader, detained, mother collapsed and hospitalized)

Tan Xiuhong (British attorney, detained on [September 21, 2015](#) with five others; **UPDATE**: detained)

Date: July 10, 2016

Location: Foshan, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/07/30-christians-held-by-police-in.html>



Egypt

Event: Eight Christian homes were attacked, eight Muslim attackers were detained, eight Christians were detained so that a 'reconciliation meeting' could be arranged

Mahrous Ishak (said "On Thursday 21 July, we received threats of an attack the next day. We told the police and national security, but they showed no interest saying 'If an attack happens, call us then and we'll come quickly'. On Friday, during the Muslim prayers the loudspeakers suddenly fell eerily silent. Later, crowds filed out of mosques. One cleric was clearly seen directing groups of people in different ways towards Christian homes...When we asked why they [police] were detaining victims as well as perpetrators, they told us it was a matter of 'state security' and that's how things are done. One young man, Michael Ibrahim, went to the police station to complain about the attack. He was instead detained and no report was filed. He was told 'Since you are here, you might as well stay here!'")

Michael Ibrahim (detained)

Date: July 22, 2016

Location: Saft el-Khirs

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4566308/>

Egypt

Nagy (son of Aiman Ragy, joined a children's soccer club, persecuted after found to be a Christian, quit)

Aiman Ragy (father of Nagy)

Date reported: July 28, 2016

Location: Semouha

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1695&A=25026>



France

Event: A priest, three nuns, and two parishioners were taken hostage by two ISIL members during Mass, one nun hospitalized in critical condition

Fr Jacques Hamel (aged 85, **beheaded**)

Sr Danielle (escaped during the beheading of Fr Jacques Hamel, said "In the church everyone was shouting: 'stop you don't know what you're doing.' But they didn't stop. They forced him [Fr Hamel] to get down on his knees, he tried to defend himself and then the horror started")

Jeanine (aged 86, taken hostage, gun pressed to her neck, husband forced to video the beheading of Fr Jacques Hamel then sashed four times, he played dead and was hospitalized in serious condition)

Date: July 26, 2016

Location: Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, Normandy

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/26/murder-of-a-priest-how-the-horror-unfolded-as-two-islamic-state/>

and <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/07/27/normandy-hostages-forced-to-film-murdered-priest/>



India

Event: Two Christians were abducted by Hindu radicals, taken into a forest, beaten, tied to a tree and left for hours, untied by police who arrested them on forced conversion charges

Rev Ramlal Kori

Nanda Lal

Rev Ram Yesh (said of the arrest Rev Ramlal Kori and Nandalal "Police held them all day [22 July] on the pretext of providing them protection, but then in the evening sent them to prison")

Date: July 21, 2016

Location: Gadra village, Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh:-abducted-and-beaten,-two-Christians-are-arrested-by-police-for-forced-conversions-38141.html>

and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/attacked-christians-jailed-in-central-india/76669>

Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal (**UPDATE:** wrote "It has become the order of the day that the Dalits ['those who are trampled upon', untouchables]...are persecuted in various parts of the country in the name of meat consumption and protection of cattle")

Date: July 22, 2016

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/bishops-condemn-increasing-attacks-on-indias-dalits/76681>

Br Francis Thattaparambil SJ (sacramental winery operator, said he is "expecting officials to come and close the winery any time now" after the state government banned the use of wine during Mass)

Fr Devasia Mattathilany (said that the church will appeal to the government to amend the law to allow the use of wine at Mass)

Gabriel John (said that the laity would oppose the state ban of wine at Mass)

Date reported: July 25, 2016

Location: Bihar state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-bihar-state-bans-sacramental-wine/76660>

Philip Christy (All India Christian Minority Front president, has called for Christians in all 29 states to demonstrate on October 1, 2016 against the continuing attacks on churches, said

"Some communal forces attached to the [BJP] party are creating an atmosphere of fear among Christians by attacking them and their places of worship")

Samuel Jaykumar (National Council of Churches in India; **UPDATE**: said "There are incidents of violence against Christians happening all over. Just because it is not happening at a prominent place or not being reported in the media does not mean it is not taking place")

Date reported: July 25, 2016

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-plan-mass-movement-to-protest-persecution-in-india/76644>

Maner Sori (convert, 14 year old daughter raped and murdered in likely revenge for the family's conversion 18 years ago)

Pastor A K Netam (described the murder of the 14 year old daughter of Maner Sori)

Date: July 22, 2016

Location: Jattarbeda village, Kondagaon district, Chhattisgarh state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-girl-allegedly-raped-then-murdered-for-being-christian/76678>



Indonesia

Fr Agustinus Ulahayanan (criticized the government for closing an Ahmadiyya mosque "The closure of the mosque violates the Ahmadis' right to worship [and] shows a crisis in the values of tolerance and plurality")

Date: July 25, 2016

Location: Sukabumi district, West Java province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-official-criticizes-forced-closure-of-ahmadi-mosque/76700>



Iran

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (aged 37, husband of Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani, father of Daniel and Yoel, arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); released on [May 14, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: arrested on national security and Zionism charges, released but given one week to produce a US\$33,000 bail or face re-arrest)

Date: July 24, 2016

Location: Rasht

Mohammad-Reza Yohan Omid (**UPDATE**: released on bail)

Date: June 7, 2016

Location: Rasht

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4488553/>



Iraq

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (**UPDATE**: related his recent work with founding a Standing Committee for Dialog between the Chaldean Catholic Church and leaders of Shiite religious centers “With friendly frankness I told the Shiites that there can be no future unless the language of religious preaching is updated. I outlined briefly for them the experience of Christians : in the long run, without this updating people start to lose interest in religion. Preaching and dialogue must be concrete, it must take into consideration the present moment in time and real difficulties: before strictly academic and theological questions, we can begin to discuss social issues, including those of justice and recognition of human rights. These are the fields in which we must begin to search for shared solutions”)

Date: July 25, 2016

Location: Bagdad

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60511-ASIA_IRAQ_Chaldean_Patriarch_proposes_to_Iranian_and_Iraqi_Shiites_the_creation_of_a_Standing_Committee_for_Dialogue#.V5weGsKV85u



Mexico

Bishop Eduardo Porfirio Patino Leal (**UPDATE**: said "It is clear that the numbers of killings, kidnapping and torture continue to rise. A void has been created in action to guarantee the safety of all citizens. It would appear that those who commit such crimes feel free to do so")

Date: July 24, 2016

Location: Cordoba

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60509-AMERICA_MEXICO_All_this_violence_reveals_a_void_in_citizens_security_says_Bishop_Patino_Leal#.V5hAScKV85s

Bishop Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel (condemned the assassination of a mayor and five others)

Date: July 23, 2016

Location: San Juan Chamula

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/60503-AMERICA MEXICO Weapons are the weakness of reason Bishop Arizmendi refers to the assassination of the local mayor#.V5hDHMKV85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60503-AMERICA_MEXICO_Weapons_are_the_weakness_of_reason_Bishop_Arizmendi_refers_to_the_assassination_of_the_local_mayor#.V5hDHMKV85s)



Nigeria

Pastor Bojamo (abducted)

Pastor Segun Adegbiyi (confirmed the abduction of Pastor Bojamo)

Date: July 24, 2016

Location: Lagos

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/07/rccg-pastor-kidnapped/>
and <http://punchng.com/gunmen-abduct-rccg-pastor-sunday-service/>



Pakistan

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney; **UPDATE**: objected to the arrest of a mentally ill Hindu man on blasphemy charges and the subsequent demonstration that blocked the National Highway and damaged public property "The agitation is too much because the alleged accused belongs to religious Hindu minority. Blasphemy law is a fire which burns the many innocents")

Date: July 26, 2016

Location: Ghotki

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6010>

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: called upon the Chief Minister [Governor] of Punjab province to intervene in a theft of church land)

Date reported: July 28, 2016

Location: Syed Nagar village, near Alipur Chatha, Gujranwala district

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6014>

Peter Jacob (director of the National Commission for Justice and Peace; **UPDATE**: complained that the local government still refuses to register Christian and Ahmadiyya marriages)

Date reported: July 28, 2016

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1150717/basic-right-ahmadi-christian-marriages-not-registered/>



Philippines

Fr Sebastiano D'Ambra PIME (**UPDATE**: issued an appeal "to stop killing Christians in Jolo...A Christian was killed in Jolo a few days ago...a reliable source told me that 20 Christians have been targeted to be killed or kidnapped soon. In the midst of so many good Muslim leaders and friends of Jolo the Christian community is suffering a form of persecution from those who are guided by bad elements who claim to do it in the name of Islam")

Date: July 29, 2016

Location: Jolo, Sulu province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr-D'Ambra:-Christian-lives-are-in-danger-in-Jolo-because-jihadists-want-to-kill-them-38174.html>



Thailand

Noshad Young (aged 52, husband of Victoria, father of three, Pakistani refugee, reported on [July 14, 2016](#) to have been held in immigration detention for over two months along with his son, requires hospitalization due to a heart condition and digestive problems, unable to eat; **UPDATE**: has received medical care after an international outcry and intervention by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, still incarcerated, has begun eating)

Date reported: July 23, 2016

Location: Bangkok

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/Dying-asylum-seeker-receives-treatment-after-international-pressure>



Uganda

Pastor Robert Bakulubanywa (aged 38, husband, father of four aged 3, 6, 8, and 10, **killed** by local Muslims after refusing to sell land for a mosque and after converting Muslims to Christ)

Date: July 24, 2016

Location: Bubulanga village, Kibuku district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/pastor-in-eastern-uganda-killed-for-evangelizing-muslims-refusing-to-sell-land/>



Venezuela

Bishop Emeritus Ramon Ovidio Perez Morales (issued statements on Twitter that warned of attempts by the government to discredit the church)

Date: July 27, 2016

Location: Los Teques

Bishop Mario del Valle Moronta Rodríguez (denounced statements made on a Twitter account that falsely claimed affiliation with the country's Catholic bishops)

Date: days before July 27, 2016

Location: San Cristobal de Venezuela

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60529->

[AMERICA VENEZUELA Campaign on several fronts to discredit the Church in Venezuela referendum still delayed#.V5wuicKV85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60529-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Campaign_on_several_fronts_to_discredit_the_Church_in_Venezuela_referendum_still_delayed#.V5wuicKV85s)

Today's Martyrs

For more information please visit our web site at <http://todaysmartyrs.org/>

or write to

2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455

Fairfield CT 06825-2400

Permission is granted to copy, disseminate and forward this document without charge or fee, provided no changes are made and full attribution is made to Today's Martyrs